

Senate Education Committee

Trevor Currier 271-4151

HB 1832-FN, adding students with a parent or guardian on active military duty to the education freedom accounts priority guidelines.

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Time Opened: 9:50 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:04 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ward, Sullivan, Abbas, Prentiss and Altschiller

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill adds students residing in New Hampshire with at least one parent or guardian on active military duty to the priority guidelines list for education freedom accounts.

Sponsors:
Rep. Morse

Who supports the bill: 5 People signed in support of HB 1832-FN. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide (trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov).

Who opposes the bill: 130 People signed in opposition to HB 1832-FN. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide (trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov).

Who is neutral on the bill: 1 Person signed in neutral on HB 1832-FN. To see the full list of sign-ins, please email the committee aide (trevor.currier@gc.nh.gov).

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Rick Ladd, Grafton - District 5

- Representative Ladd introduced House Bill 1832-FN.

Kevin Grady, State Veterans Advisory Committee

- Mr. Grady explained that although he was not entirely supportive of the bill as introduced, he is now in support of the legislation as amended by the House.

- He stated that his concern with the bill as introduced primarily resulted from the language detailing permanent station orders only in New Hampshire. He stated this would not have included families who live in the southern portion of the state that commute to Hanscom Air Force Base because their orders would state Massachusetts. He also cited that the military personnel at the Portsmouth Shipyard would have orders stating Maine. He also stated that it could leave out those actively serving on a remote tour.
- He stated the bill has been amended to permit a student to reap the benefits of this policy if one of their parents is serving active-duty military and they reside in New Hampshire.
- Mr. Grady added that if the goal of the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program is to create equality across the state, these families living in New Hampshire should be included. He explained that families do not need to be legal residents of New Hampshire to live here while on official orders, and he established that the state is responsible for educating their children.
- He said this bill fits well with the Governor's effort to attract veterans to the state.
- Senator Abbas asked whether the bill should consider including Army National Guard families. Mr. Grady responded that the assumption is that Army National Guard members are residents of New Hampshire who are often stationed there and have access to the EFA program.
- Senator Prentiss mentioned the Military Interstate Compact, which aims to make transitions easier for military families to move between states. She asked if the current compact is effectively removing obstacles for families wanting to join the program. Mr. Grady highlighted the unique challenges military families face when choosing the best educational options for their children, especially if they are only in the state briefly or during a transitional phase in their schooling.
- Senator Prentiss summarized her concerns by stating that if the compact is doing its job, this legislation might not be necessary, and she committed to contacting an individual who may possess the answer.